

## NEW YORK HERALD

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tional index number stood at 3,467, the highest on record, while the external value of the mark below half a cent was equal to an index number of 4,600. Thus three paper marks have the same purchasing power within Germany as four paper marks abroad, giving German industry on this score alone the advantage of production costs one-fourth lower than similar costs elsewhere.

### A Lead for the Grand Jury.

The so-called inquiry conducted by Hylan's Commissioner of Accounts, HIRSHFIELD, relative to the raid on the Town Hall meeting of November 13, has come to an end before half the truth is told.

The inquiry showed, of course, that a police captain kept the persons at the meeting from speaking, thus violating their constitutional rights. The police captain was unable to offer any reason for his act except that his desk lieutenant had received orders from police headquarters to prevent the meeting from being held.

Surely the desk lieutenant knows the identity of the person at police headquarters who sent the message. Surely that person can tell from whom he received his orders. But Hylan's man HIRSHFIELD closed the inquiry without summoning the witnesses who could lead back to the origin of the outrage.

Is the Mayor going to be satisfied with drawing the curtain like this? The people of New York will not be satisfied until they find out what official at police headquarters gave the order to suspend the right of freedom of speech. And they will demand to know his motives.

The case is traced to a point just outside of police headquarters. The Grand Jury could easily take up the broken trail.

### England Readjusting Feet.

Ordinarily, with all trade sails bellied in the wind and no ominous signs on the horizon, the way for British bankers to hoist the English pound to par immediately would be to raise bank rates and attract gold to London. But ordinary methods are in these times as ineffective in controlling the currents of finance and exchange as a canoe paddle would be in steering a ship.

British bankers know that if they encourage industry and trade with cheap money, industry and trade will in turn respond with enlarged production which will fetch far more substantial support to the British pound than a bid for gold through higher bank rates could ever bring.

This fundamental British faith in cheap money for trade and industry explains the new reduction in the Bank of England discount rate to 4½ per cent. A 4½ per cent. rate at the Bank of England means industrial money and trading funds for British enterprise at less than 4 per cent., which is a normal interest charge even in the traditional cheap money market of London.

With the wages of capital, the wages of labor and all other production costs and overhead charges working back to normal, as they are now doing in the British Isles, the course is clear for Britain to steer straight for prosperity.

### The Bolsheviks' Secret Police.

The Cheka, the most notorious of the institutions for enforcing the orders of the Bolshevik rulers, has been suppressed, according to a message from Moscow. The Cheka was in reality the secret police organization which came into existence along with the establishment of the Lenin-Trotsky régime and became a successor to the spy system of Imperial Russia and a reminder of the police agents of the most autocratic of the Czars.

The Cheka was supposed to keep order throughout the country; and Mrs. MARQUETTE E. HARRISON, in a recent work upon her experience at Moscow, gives it full credit for restoring order in the larger cities and making them safe so far as lawlessness and robbery are concerned. But at the same time the Cheka does not make individuals in these cities or any part of the country safer from arrest. Of the persons arrested through its operations many were charged with being counter-revolutionists. If the evidence was not clear against them they were held for months for the most trivial reasons, sometimes as witnesses and not infrequently for the purpose of isolation during political agitation.

FELIX DZERZHINSKY, who had been a revolutionary since 1905 and who spent several years in prison during the reign of NICHOLAS II, was the head of the Cheka practically from its formation. In appearance he is described as bearing a remarkable resemblance to ROBERTSON, and as having many of that French revolutionary's qualities of leadership. He frankly admits that as an organizer the Cheka duplicates in many respects the Okhrana, or secret police of the Czar, but he declares that its existence is justified by post-revolutionary conditions in Russia.

It would be difficult to estimate the number of arrests for political offenses the Cheka has made or the trials of those persons who have been compelled to face this secret tribunal. No public report of the proceedings has been issued. Within the last few months DZERZHINSKY said that the majority of executions have been for desertion from the army, brigandage and espionage. He asserted, too, that few persons have been shot for political offenses and that the majority of these offenders were sent to the internment camps.

It is interesting to note that the Cheka, which was organized by DZERZHINSKY, has been described by him as a "counter-revolutionary" organization. This is a curious statement, considering that the Cheka was organized by DZERZHINSKY, who was a revolutionary, and that the Cheka was organized by DZERZHINSKY, who was a revolutionary.

He is supreme master of this department of the Government and there is no one in authority to question the truthfulness of his statements.

The reason for the suppression of the Cheka, it is asserted, is found in Moscow's desire to clean house before going to Genoa. With the same end in view most of the political prisoners who have been confined by order of the Cheka will be released. Accompanying these reforms and apparently as a substitute for its secret police the Soviet Government is to have a new State political department, of which the chief is to be DZERZHINSKY and through which he will be able to conduct the same kind of operations he has conducted through the Cheka.

It is apparent that the Soviet has not given up the instrument of terror which served it so efficiently but has merely changed its name.

### Why Debate About Jackson?

Congress plans to treat the public to something that will not demand new taxes. This is to be a debate on the old question of ANDREW JACKSON'S birthplace. Representative STEVENSON of South Carolina is the challenger. Representative HAMMER of North Carolina is expected to take up the case of the battle.

So careful a historian as JOHN FISKE dodged the ancient dispute. He contented himself with saying that JACKSON was born "in the Waxhaw settlement on the border between North and South Carolina." FISKE admits that the evidence adduced by ANDY'S biographer, JAMES PARTON, seems to show that the birthplace of the seventh President was north of the border, even though JACKSON himself believed that he was a native of South Carolina.

The facts collected by PARTON show almost beyond question that JACKSON was born in the house of GEORGE McKEMENY in Union county, North Carolina, about a quarter of a mile east of the State line. This evidence MR. STEVENSON may be able to upset, thus vindicating JACKSON'S own declaration that he was a native of the South State.

Yet, after all, why should Democrats of to-day debate about JACKSON or JEFFERSON? Don't they know that the great, overwhelming figure of the Democratic party, past, present and future, is JOHN F. HYLAN?

### War Veterans in Congress.

When KNUTE NELSON recently came out against the bonus scheme some of the newspaper dispatches referred to the Minnesota as the only civil war veteran left in the United States Senate. This was an error, for Senator FRANCIS E. WARREN of Wyoming served in the Forty-ninth Massachusetts Infantry from 1862, when he enlisted at the age of 18, until the end of the war. Curiously enough, both the Senate's survivors of the Rebellion were present at the siege of Port Hudson. Corporal WARREN on May 27, 1863, volunteered for an assault on the Confederate works there and bore himself with such gallantry that he received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Seventeen days later KNUTE NELSON was wounded and taken prisoner not far from the scene of Corporal WARREN'S exploit.

The House of Representatives, for all of its large membership, can boast of no more civil war soldiers than the Senate. Representative HENRY Z. OSBORNE of the Tenth California district enlisted at the age of 16 in the 192d New York Volunteers. Representative CHARLES M. STEDMAN of the Fifth district of North Carolina, who is 81 years old, fought in the First North Carolina Regiment and was with Lee at Appomattox. It seems strange that Mr. STEDMAN should be the only Confederate veteran in Congress, considering the tender years at which Southern lads enlisted and the South's custom of rewarding its soldiers with public office.

Twenty years ago there were two dozen civil war veterans in the United States Senate and the majority of them came from the South. Some of the deeply Democratic States elected them in pairs. Alabama sent MORGAN and PETTUS; Arkansas, JONES and BERRY; Florida, MALLOY and TALIAFERRO; Mississippi, MONEY and McLAURIN; Bacon of Georgia, BLACKBURN of Kentucky, McENERY of Louisiana, BATE of Tennessee, and DANIEL of Virginia added to the goodly company of those whom their colleagues called the Brigadiers. The Populist HARRIS of Kansas was a Confederate veteran, too, having fought with the Virginia troops. At the same time there were ten Union veterans in the Senate. These, besides WARREN and NELSON, were M. S. QUAY of Pennsylvania, FORAKER of Ohio, PROCTOR of Vermont, SCOTT of West Virginia, BURROWS of Michigan, HAWLEY of Connecticut and SPOONER and CHARLES of Wisconsin.

Now, fifty-seven years after the close of the war, there is not a Confederate veteran in the Senate. JOHN H. BARKHEAD of Alabama, the last of the Brigadiers, died two years ago at the age of 78. Twenty years after the war ended only thirteen States were not represented in the Senate by at least one veteran. BENJAMIN HARRISON sat for Indiana, JOHN A. LOGAN for Illinois, WARNER MILLER for New York, General SEVELL for New Jersey. In 1886 every man representing Mississippi in either house of Congress had been a Confederate soldier or a member of the Confederate Congress.

Although only four civil war fighters remain in Congress, that body contains a good sprinkling of the torches of the north flare up the burning lovelessness without a name Enfields the armament: now faint and shy.

Now glowing like a vivid frozen flame The light appears: not brighter nor more fair Gleams the Aurora, goddess of the dawn, Than she who now behind the giant Bear

Weaves on her tapestries of rose and fawn. Yet as we watch, the rays fade out and die. Across the calm of night's star-spangled sea, ELIZABETH SCOLLARD.

veterans. This State alone sends at least eight. The war with Spain is represented by Senator WADSWORTH, who served with Battery A of the Pennsylvania Field Artillery in the Porto Rico campaign; by Representative ANDREW L. KLINE of Brooklyn, who was Lieutenant-colonel of the Fourteenth New York Volunteers; and by ANTHONY J. GAVIN of the Bronx, who commanded a company of the Sixty-ninth Regiment. The world war veterans from this neighborhood who are in the House include OGDEN L. MILLS, who was a captain; HAMILTON FISH, Jr., who won the Croix de Guerre in France as a major of infantry; THOMAS JEFFERSON RYAN, an aviator who was wounded and decorated and who returned home to perform the commendable task of defeating PETER F. DOOLING in a Tammany stronghold; LESTER D. VOLK, who was a first lieutenant in the A. E. F.; and MARTIN C. AYSCOGHE, who served in the motor transport corps.

There never has been a Congress without plenty of war veterans in it, and the visible supply should last fifty years.

### The Disappearing Box.

The evolution of theater architecture in accordance with the desires of the present generation of playgoers promises to eliminate altogether the boxes which in the past have been a notable feature of theater design. Now playhouses are built which boldly ignore this traditional adjunct. In some of the theaters originally supplied with accommodations for those seeking the comfort and privacy of boxes the boxes have been removed in order to obtain a larger seating capacity. This has happened at the Globe Theater, which is the work of noted architects and was not designed primarily as a commercial building.

The disappearance of the boxes has come about gradually. The New Amsterdam Theater, which employed many artistic workers in its construction, first set the boxes sufficiently high above the level of the auditorium to allow a maximum seating capacity in the parquette. Soon that plan of design was adopted in new theaters until the box on the lower floor all but disappeared. The slight demand for boxes in recent seasons has not only shown the preference of the public but has led to such business inconsistencies as lower prices for seats in boxes with all their advantages of extra space and comfort than for the orchestra seats.

The theater box is evidently not in accord with the spirit of the time. It was, of course, never possible to view the spectacle in the most satisfactory manner from such seats. The old desire for exclusiveness was the principal recommendation of the boxes. Probably a survival of the days of the platform theater, when the dandies sat on the stage, the box finds its chief reason for being gone in an age of democratic familiarity in the theater.

There are other causes for the disappearance of the box besides the desire to see well rather than to be seen and the lack of formality which has come to surround theatergoing. The value of real estate is a powerful influence in New York theater construction. The space occupied by theater boxes can be utilized more profitably for seats. With the managers and the public to-day equally indifferent to what were once considered the advantages of a box, this feature of the theater building seems destined to disappear altogether.

In the ten years beginning with 1901 the number of dressmakers and seamstresses in New York city, not including those employed in factories, decreased from 38,850 to 22,785. It would be interesting to analyze the causes of the drop in the number of these workers. Perhaps ready-made clothing for women accounted for it. In part, but dress pattern publishers find ready markets for their products. In war days much clothing was remodeled in homes for patriotic buyers of Liberty bonds. The passing of the visiting seamstress would mark the close of an interesting chapter in social evolution.

Ships held fast in the unusually heavy ice in the Baltic have been provisioned by airplanes and a venturesome aviator has been blown away from a buoy by a hot blast from that lively creature. It is a dull day that reveals no new and astonishing adventure of the bird men.

In the Sudan war prices still prevail and wives now cost seven cows, where the price was four cows in 1914. However, like lovers in other parts of the world, the Sudanese wooers probably figure that a good wife is worth any number of cows.

Careless smokers in New York State cause fires which do \$3,000,000 damage every year, but what is the high cost of confagurations to the smoker who throws burning matches into paper filled scrap baskets?

Station Island fears it is in for a water shortage and already several accomplished bootleggers are looking the ground over to see what opportunities this drought holds for them.

### The Aurora Borealis.

The torches of the north flare up the burning lovelessness without a name Enfields the armament: now faint and shy.

Now glowing like a vivid frozen flame The light appears: not brighter nor more fair Gleams the Aurora, goddess of the dawn, Than she who now behind the giant Bear

Weaves on her tapestries of rose and fawn. Yet as we watch, the rays fade out and die. Across the calm of night's star-spangled sea, ELIZABETH SCOLLARD.

Lincoln and Hamlin. The answer to the "C. C." problem as to what President Lincoln's name contains that the Vice-President is Abraham Lincoln. E. F. M.

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### The Government Way.

Unbusinesslike Methods Used in the Choice of a Postmaster.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: It has been my privilege for several years to be a winter visitor in Miami and a recent happening here has attracted my interest.

Some days ago I saw an announcement in the local newspaper that a postmaster for this city had just been appointed, a gentleman employed in a department store. In the paper a short interview with the appointee was published in which he expressed his gratification at the appointment, and said that he knew nothing about the business of running the post office, but would endeavor to learn.

I learn also that the office of postmaster had been vacant some years. In the meantime it had been run by the assistant postmaster, and, as far as I have heard, it has been conducted very satisfactorily, although during the winter the work is very heavy.

Isn't this a very fine illustration of the way in which business methods are practically excluded from the management of governmental affairs? What business concern with the pressure for economical management which exists to-day in the case of the Government would venture to fill a vacancy which it has been demonstrated it is not necessary to fill, and then fill that vacancy with a man who confesses unfamiliarity with the duties of the office?

J. C. LEGGATT.

MIAMI, Fla., February 16.

### Clean Plays Succeed.

The Answer to an Argument Put Forward by William A. Brady.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: "Let ignorance talk as it will." It certainly had a field day last Sunday night in Calvary Baptist Church.

I will not try to prove that Dr. Stratton did not know what he was talking about—too many already have essayed that—but I would have something to say to the demands of the ignorant and the vulgar on the stage. Come now, Mr. Brady, would your improper play of the last three years that made more money than "Lightning," "The Tavern" or "Blossom Time"? What artist of the variety can outdraw Will Rogers and his clean, wholesome humor?

A word to you, my good doctor: If you would consign Charlie Chaplin's antics to the fire and brimstone you might throw in the most charming and cleanest works of Wilde and De Maupassant and you would be anything but not consistent. P. A. D.

NEW YORK, February 18.

### Well Dressed Presidents.

One of Mr. McKinley's Outfits Shown at the Paris Exposition 1900.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: In regard to the late President D. C. Fry of Washington, D. C., dealing with well dressed Presidents, in which he takes a Marlon, Ohio, tailor to task for publicly claiming or having it proclaimed for him by a Washington newspaper that "he has made Harding the best dressed President that ever lived in the White House" I venture to say that while President Harding is a finely proportioned man and his clothes well cut, yet there have been others.

I had the honor and pleasure of making President McKinley's clothes for several years. An outfit of his was exhibited at the Paris exposition in 1900, all Europe bowing to the excellence of American tailoring at that time and to the United States was awarded a gold medal.

President McKinley carried his clothes with grace and distinction, as did President Chester A. Arthur and other occupants of the White House. JOHN J. KENNEDY.

NEW YORK, February 18.

### He Heard Booth Say It.

An Eye Witness's Recollections of Lincoln's Assassination.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: I have read with much interest the article which you printed on Sunday last by Mr. Burnham entitled "America's Greatest Tragedy," and also the letter referring to it written by Herbert S. Renton.

In reply to the question did John Wilkes Booth cry "See semper tyrannus" I would say that I was in Ford's Theater the night of Mr. Lincoln's assassination, seated in an orchestra chair close to the stage and saw Booth leap from the President's box, and before he struck the stage remember distinctly hearing him say "See semper tyrannus!" DANIEL H. VANDER.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., February 18.

### Feet on Taxicab Seats.

Remarks Prompted by an Account of a Recent Arrest.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: There are women who seem to think when they are riding in a taxicab that they are entitled to put their feet on the cushions or seats and thus to soil and deface them.